

Opening Statement by Norman J. Saari

Michigan Public Service Commission

August 13, 2014

It is an honor and privilege to appear before the Senate Energy and Technology Committee in week two of my appointment by Governor Snyder to serve as a commissioner on the Michigan Public Service Commission. This advice and consent hearing is an important part of the process to give the legislature and Michigan's residents the assurance that an appointee to public service will fulfill his responsibility without prejudice or favoritism.

I value the opportunity to serve. I respect the role of the legislature and the Governor to establish the rule of law and public policy.

The Public Service Commission is charged with implementing and regulating this policy, with programs that reflect fair and balanced decisions and enforcement.

There is no more important responsibility for a commissioner than to make ethical, legal and wise decisions that will impact the 10 million Michiganders who rely upon this state's providers for these services.

The Commission's decisions must be made in an open and transparent manner. Our rulings can not reflect special treatment to any interest groups.

I have worked for the past eight years in staff positions in the Michigan Senate, the Governor's Office and House of Representatives. I have seen the process of developing sound public policy.

Previously, I worked for nearly thirty years in communications and governmental affairs positions with Consumers Energy. I have no financial interests in Consumers or any other Michigan utilities.

I have gained knowledge and experience to learn that government best works collaboratively with providers and other stakeholders to make sure that Michigan's residents and businesses receive world class service.

It is now my commitment to fulfill the responsibility of a Public Service Commissioner to lead Michigan forward as we face an ever changing world of energy and telecommunications.